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SENATE MEMORIAL 82

49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2009

INTRODUCED BY

Stuart Ingle

A MEMORIAL

HONORING THE LIFE OF PATTY JENNINGS AND THE COMMITMENT OF
SENATOR TIM AND PATTY JENNINGS TO THE CAUSE OF BREAST CANCER
RESEARCH BY DEDICATING THE BREAST CANCER RESEARCH AND OUTREACH
PROGRAM IN THEIR NAMES.

WHEREAS, the board of regents of the university of New
Mexico has approved the statewide breast cancer research and
outreach program at the university of New Mexico cancer center
to be named "The Senator Tim and Patty Jennings Breast Cancer
Research and Statewide Outreach Program"; and

WHEREAS, Patricia K. "Patty" Jennings, wife of Senator
Timothy Z. Jennings, passed away on February 14, 2009 after a
four-year struggle with breast cancer; and

WHEREAS, after her diagnosis, and upon becoming acquainted
with several young women undergoing treatment for breast

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1 cancer, Patty and Tim became ardent advocates for those
2 patients across the state and the nation who are suffering from
3 this disease; and

4 WHEREAS, they were particularly interested in patients
5 afflicted with inflammatory breast cancer, a rare and
6 aggressive form of cancer affecting primarily young women, from
7 which very few survive and for which there is no effective
8 therapy; and

9 WHEREAS, originally diagnosed with this type of breast
10 cancer, Patty later learned that she was the victim of a
11 different, high-risk form of breast cancer; however, she vowed
12 to continue to help the hundreds of young women whose lives are
13 taken by inflammatory breast cancer every year; and

14 WHEREAS, together, Patty and Senator Tim Jennings
15 successfully lobbied for a bill to establish a partnership
16 between the university of New Mexico cancer center and the
17 university of Texas M.D. Anderson cancer center to conduct
18 inflammatory breast cancer research; and

19 WHEREAS, the New Mexico legislature unanimously passed
20 Senate Bill 532 in 2007 that appropriated three million two
21 hundred thousand dollars (\$3,200,000) for this purpose; and

22 WHEREAS, the Texas legislature quickly followed suit and
23 contributed four million dollars (\$4,000,000) to this new
24 partnership; and

25 WHEREAS, through the Susan G. Komen breast cancer

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1 foundation, American airlines has committed an additional eight
2 million dollars (\$8,000,000) to the fund and has dedicated ten
3 of their fleet to display the pink breast cancer ribbon to
4 promote the cause of breast cancer research; and

5 WHEREAS, this two-state, two national cancer institute
6 certified cancer center collaboration is the first of its kind
7 in the nation; and

8 WHEREAS, the program is currently conducting critical
9 research on inflammatory breast cancer; and

10 WHEREAS, the program is also focused on developing and
11 providing community-based breast cancer education, awareness
12 and screening; and

13 WHEREAS, the program is also developing a registry of all
14 newly diagnosed breast cancer patients in the state; and

15 WHEREAS, Patty Jennings, through her life and her death,
16 has had an immeasurable impact on breast cancer care and
17 research in New Mexico, securing hope for the future for women
18 facing this terrible disease; and

19 WHEREAS, Patty Jennings and Senator Tim Jennings have left
20 a tremendous legacy for breast cancer research well into the
21 future;

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
23 OF NEW MEXICO that the life of Patty Jennings and the
24 commitment of Senator Tim and Patty Jennings to the cause of
25 breast cancer research be honored by the dedication of the

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1 statewide breast cancer research and outreach program at the
2 university of New Mexico cancer center as "The Senator Tim and
3 Patty Jennings Breast Cancer Research and Statewide Outreach
4 Program"; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
6 transmitted to Senator Timothy Z. Jennings.

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